

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested.

Claims 59, 69, 72, 93, 98-102 and 220 are allowed and are herewith presented.

Claim 96 is objected to for formal reasons and is herewith amended.

Claims 25, 32, 73-74, 83, 85, 103, 115-118, 221 and 226 are rejected and are herewith cancelled.

Claims 233-272 are herewith added.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to Claim 96 because it contained various informalities. Accordingly, Applicant has amended this claim such that appropriate corrections have been made thereto. It may be noted that these amendments are merely cosmetic and do not change the scope of the claim. It is believed that this will overcome the objections of the Examiner with regard to this claim.

Claims Rejections under 35 USC § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 25, 32, 73, 74, 83, 103, 221 and 226 under 35 USC § 102 (b) as being anticipated by DE Patent No. 1,810,799 to Metz. Without agreeing with the rejection and solely to further the case to issuance, Applicant has elected to cancel these claims and reserves the right to file a continuation application to these and other previously canceled and amended claims.

Claims Rejections under 35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejects claims 85 and 116-118 under 35 USC § 103 (a). Claim 85 is considered as obvious over Metz. Claims 116-118 are considered as being unpatentable over Metz in light of Buechel, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,702,448). Without agreeing with the rejection and solely to further the case to issuance, Applicant has elected to cancel these claims and reserves the right to file a continuation application to these and other previously canceled and amended claims.

Additional Claim Material

New dependent claims 233-272 are herewith presented. As these claims are dependent on allowed claim 220 and are based on previously filed dependent claims, these claims should be allowable. No new matter has been added.

All issues raised by the Examiner have been dealt with. In view of the above amendments and the discussion above, Applicant submits that the claims are all in condition for allowance. A prompt Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Encls.:

- Petition for Extension (1 Month)
- Amendment Claim Transmittal